

## **Minutes of the Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, June 6, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Vice Chairman Hoselton, Members Dean, O'Connor, Cavallini, Hoselton, and Baggett

Members Absent: Chairman Bass

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Christine Northcutt, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer

Others Present: Ms. Connie Johnson, Accounting Specialist II, Auditor's Office; Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner, Regional Planning

Vice Chairman Hoselton called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Vice Chairman Hoselton stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2006 meeting and for the bills from May 31, 2006.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to recommend approval of the minutes from May 2, 2006 and for the bills for May, 2006 as submitted by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

\*\*Mr. Dean entered the meeting at 8:09 a.m.

Vice Chairman Hoselton stated the first item for action would be the Resolution and letting results from a May 30<sup>th</sup> letting for County and Township projects. Vice Chairman Hoselton asked Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, County Highway Department to present this item to the Committee. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this bid letting was for a concrete box culvert on the Stanford-McLean Road. There were two bidders, Stark and Entler Excavating. Entler Excavating provided the low bid. Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that Entler Excavating is located in Decatur and, to his knowledge, this is their first time bidding on a project for the Highway Department. They provided several Counties as references. Mr. Mitchell stated that he called Macon, DeWitt and Shelby Counties, all of which stated that Entler Excavating did good work and they had no problems with the company. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would recommend approval of award of this bid.

Vice Chairman Hoselton asked if the Highway Department lists the quantity of materials that will be needed on project when soliciting bids. Mr. Mitchell responded that they do list the quantity needed. Vice Chairman Hoselton stated that in working in the construction business, he didn't encounter any companies which provided that information when asking for bids. Vice Chairman Hoselton asked if there were any other questions, hearing none, he called for a motion.

Motion by Cavallini/O'Connor to recommend approval of a Resolution for Letting Results from May 30, 2006 for County and Township Projects.

Vice Chairman Hoselton called for a roll call vote.

Member Cavallini "Yes"  
Member Baggett "No"  
Member Dean "Yes"  
Member O'Connor "Yes"  
Motion carried by a vote of 3 – 1.

Vice Chairman Hoselton stated that the next item for action is a Letter of Intent from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) regarding the Interstate 55 (I-55) Interchanges.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he had received a Letter of Intent from Mr. Joseph Crow, IDOT District #5 Regional Engineer on April 25, 2006. The letter proposes that in exchange for the County assuming jurisdiction of the Lexington, Towanda and Shirley overpasses, the State will provide a \$496,000.00 lump sum payment toward the total cost of repairs. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee that when the Highway Department was under the jurisdiction of IDOT District #3, IDOT proposed that jurisdiction be transferred from the State of Illinois to the County of McLean without any funding. The total estimated cost for the project is \$3.2 million. In addition to the proposed \$496,000.00 from the State, the Highway Department has been approved to receive \$800,000.00 in the form of a high priority federal grant. That leaves a \$1.9 million balance left to be funded.

Mr. Cavallini asked how Mr. Mitchell plans to accomplish the task of repairing these three overpasses. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Shirley overpass is estimated to cost \$200,000.00. It will consist of some minor patching and shoulder work. The Lexington overpass is estimated to cost \$1,731,000.00 and the Towanda overpass is estimated at \$1,175,000.00. They can be done one at a time or all in the same fiscal year. The proposed \$496,000.00 funding from the State of Illinois will not be available until the State's FY 2008, which begins in July 2007. The federal high priority funds should be available in FY 2007. Ms. O'Connor asked if the Highway Department has allocated the funds in their five year budget account \$1.9 million shortfall. Mr. Mitchell stated that he doesn't have the five year plan in front of him, but he presumes that projects could be shifted around so that the repair of the overpasses could all be let next spring.

Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that the State's current proposal is probably the best offer that the Highway Department will get and recommended approval of the proposal.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to recommend approval of a Letter of Intent proposing a jurisdictional transfer of the Shirley, Towanda, and Lexington overpasses in exchange for a one time lump sum payment of \$496,000.00 which will help defray the cost of the repairing these overpasses. Motion carried.

The next item for the Committee's consideration was a Resolution for Improvement for Bentown-Holder Road. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the funds to complete this project have already been appropriated. However, in order to complete the widening, the Highway Department must acquire right-of-way along both sides of the road. The proposed Resolution for Improvement gives the Highway Department the authority to use eminent domain, if it becomes necessary.

Vice Chairman Hoselton asked if there were any questions. Mr. Dean asked how much additional land will have to be acquired to obtain the right-of-way. Mr. Mitchell responded 12 feet along each side and some additional area at each intersection for site distance. The law allows for landowners be compensated at fair market value for their property.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to recommend approval  
of a Resolution for Improvements to Bentown-Holder  
Road. Motion carried.

The next item for the Committee's consideration was a Federal Aid Agreement and a Resolution for Improvement for work to be done on LeRoy-Lexington Road. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that last year, the Highway Department worked on a portion of LeRoy-Lexington Road from Illinois Route 9 south to Dawson Lake Road. This Resolution is proposed to widen and resurface LeRoy-Lexington from Dawson Lake Road to Illinois Route 150. The total estimate is \$1.5 million, with the County's share being \$300,000.00. The Resolution for Improvement appropriates the \$300,000.00 necessary for the project. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would recommend approval of the Federal Aid Agreement and the Resolution for Improvement for this project.

Motion by Dean/O'Connor to recommend approval  
of a Federal Aid Agreement and a Resolution for  
Improvement for LeRoy-Lexington Road.  
Motion carried.

The next item was the Truck Access Route Program (TARP) Agreement for Danvers-Carlock Road. This agreement confirms the receipt of \$317,000.00 from the TARP for the upgrade of the Danvers-Carlock Road from Interstate 74 in Carlock to North Street in Danvers to 80,000 lbs.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to recommend approval  
of a Truck Access Route Program Agreement.  
Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Hoselton asked Mr. Mitchell if this TARP Agreement should include a Resolution to upgrade the Danvers-Carlock Road to 80,000 lbs. Mr. Mitchell responded that it should have included that Resolution. He apologized to the Committee for this oversight. He asked the Committee if they would make an additional motion to approve the 80,000 lb. upgrade and he will include that Resolution in the County Board Agenda. The Committee agreed.

Motion by Cavallini/Baggett to recommend approval of an 80,000 lb. Weight Limit Resolution for the Danvers-Carlock Road. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Hoselton asked Mr. Mitchell to present the items for information to the Committee.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Ellsworth Wind Farm box culverts have been open for some time. The Highway Department is waiting for Stark to come back and finish the final grading and seeding to complete the project.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Horizon Wind Farm resurfacing project is underway. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee that they approved an Emergency Appropriation last month to receive and spend \$991,000.00 from the Wind Farm for the resurfacing of three roads. To date, \$496,000.00 has been spent on this project. Horizon has swapped one of the resurfacing projects from a road in Arrowsmith to a portion of the LeRoy-Lexington Road. The swap is due to a problem that Horizon ran into with the railroad on the section of road in Arrowsmith. Financially, it is nearly an even swap. Mr. Baggett asked if the federal government truly stopped construction on all of the wind farms nationwide. Mr. Mitchell responded that he does not have any additional information. Mr. Mitchell stated that as far as he knows, construction is scheduled to begin on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Baggett asked if Horizon could provide a status report to the full County Board regarding this matter. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would be glad to make that request.

Mr. Mitchell stated that last project is a federal project on White Oak Road which is estimated to cost \$1.8 million. \$1,520,000.00 is expected to be received in federal urban funds. The remainder will be paid for by the County. Normal and Bloomington will pay a very small portion of the cost due to the signals at the College Avenue.

The next item was an update on the East Side Highway Study. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Steering Committee is moving along with the process of consultant selection. There were eight prequalified consultants that responded. Four were interviewed and the Committee is presently negotiating with one. If the Committee and the Consultant are unable to come to an agreement, the Committee will begin negotiations with the next consultant. Mr. Mitchell stated that this topic must be treated confidentially until a consultant is chosen.

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The next item was rescheduling the July Transportation Committee Meeting. Mr. Mitchell stated that the first Tuesday of July is July 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mitchell asked the Committee if the second Tuesday of July, which is July 11<sup>th</sup> would work as an alternative date. The Committee agreed that would be acceptable. Ms. O'Connor stated that she may be out of town on that day, but she will check her calendar and let Mr. Mitchell know.

Vice Chairman Hoselton asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt  
Recording Secretary

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